THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Information Technology has not disassociated itself from the revised draft of Communication Convergence Bill, 2001. The Communication Convergence Bill does not seek to bring e-commerce and IT related services under the license regime.

(c) The question does not arise.

(d) The Group of Ministers have taken a decision in this regard as stated above.

Entry of software professionals in UK

4209. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether large scale software professionals are entering Britain from India after amendments to work permit rules issued last year to invite more Information Technology-trained foreigners by the' UK Government.

(b) if so, to what extent Indians have been engaged by UK; and

(c) the total Indian IT professionals at present working in UK?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) ; (a) to (c) According to a statement in the UK Parliament by the Minister of State for Employment in January 2001, out of a total of 18257 foreign IT professionals who entered the UK for work in the year 2000, 11474 were from India.

Opening of Protector of Emigrants at Calicut

4210. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have agreed to open an Office of the Protector of Emigrants at Calicut;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government of Kerala has agreed to provide office space and the required staff on deputation basis; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay in commencing the office functions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL) (a) to (c) A proposal from the Government of

Kerala for opening an Office of the Protector of Emigrants at Calicut with an offer to provide office space and the services of one of their officers on deputation basis for manning it was received. However, keeping in view the reduced out-flow.. of workers to other countries for work because of various reasons as also the fact that two Offices of Protector of Emigrants are already functioning in the State of Kerala at Thiruvananthapuram and Cochin, it was not considered feasible to open an office at Calicut.

Submission of Report on Child Labour by the States

†4211.SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any report regarding the Child Labours in the States have been submitted to Government;

(b) the State-wise percentage of child labour, at present;

(c) whether Government have sought any foreign assistance for elimination of problem of child labour in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) No such report has been received in this Ministry.

(b) Authentic information on child labour is generated during the decennial census. As per the 1991 census, the total number of working children in the country is 11.28 million. The State-wise position is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) India has been participating in the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) International Programme on Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) since 1992. Under the programme funds are provided by the ILO Area Office to the implementing agencies after approval of action programmes by the National Steering Committee. As per information received the ILO has implemented 165 child labour projects through government/semi-government institutions, NGOs, trade unions and employers' organisations.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.